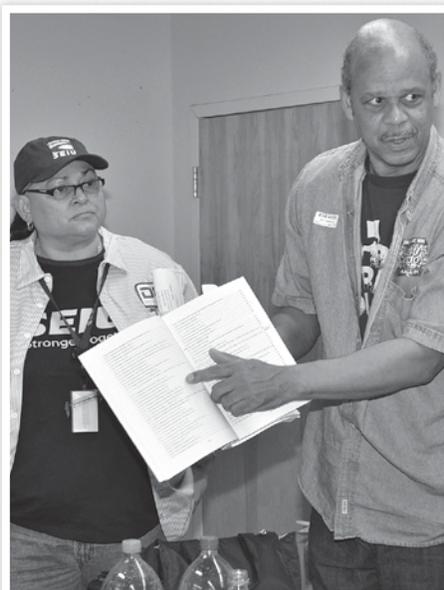


MAY 8
2013

UNION UPDATE

Members ready to step up



Bargaining Unit 15 member Keith Anderson (right) holds up a copy of our contract at a worksite meeting of custodians as team member Maria Patterson looks on.

We're building teams to fight for a fair contract, fair wages and a better California

"This is our time. We can win this if members step up to support our bargaining team," said Maria Patterson, a member of the Unit 15 bargaining team. "We need the state to see that everyone in the workplace is pushing hard for a better contract."

Local 1000 is holding more than 150 worksite meetings to brief members on bargaining, engage activists and build power through Contract Action Teams (CAT). The goal is to have an active CAT in every

workplace, so stewards can rapidly disseminate information to help members pounce into action to back a better contract.

"Many people who have never been active before are showing up, signing up and making a commitment," said Margie Espinoza, a custodian steward in Sacramento who signed up four new team leaders and got commitments from 20 other custodians at an April 29 meeting.



"Damn right, I'm all in. I wasn't active for many years, but the only way we can make up what we lost under Schwarzenegger is a better contract. Let's make our move now."

—DJ Pena, CAT leader, Bargaining Unit 15 custodian, Sacramento



SAVE
THE
DATE

'I'M ALL IN'
June 5 Rally

At the Capitol/West Steps

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

RSVP

to the Member
Resource Center

866.471.SEIU (7348)

Member profile: Teddy Vallejos

Immigration reform hits home for member

Member's husband must wait in Mexico for years because of bureaucratic maze

Teddy Vallejos has a personal stake in reforming America's contradictory immigration laws.

While Vallejos, a Bargaining Unit 1 member, continues working for the Department of General Services in West Sacramento, her husband has been forced to return to his native Mexico where he will likely spend the next 8-10 years waiting for approval to legally join his wife in the United States unless the rules change.

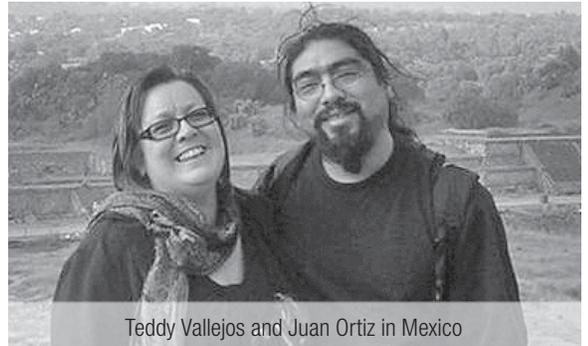
"The government is forcing us to live separately because we tried to play by the rules, and I wanted to obtain legal residency for my husband," said Vallejos, whose husband had been living and working in California without proper documents when they married. Vallejos' experience with the immigration system has spurred her activism both in her workplace and on the immigration issue.

"I believe that the system needs to be more fair and more accommodating. Whether it is immigration or issues at work, I support eliminating unfairness that hurts people," she said.

Fighting for rights for all workers

Local 1000 is part of a broad coalition working to help people like Vallejos and her husband, Juan Ortiz, as members of Congress are negotiating an overhaul of laws governing residency and the citizenship process.

"For more than a century, immigration and residency status were tools that were used to pit workers against one another, but now the labor movement



Teddy Vallejos and Juan Ortiz in Mexico

is united in seeking immigration reform that helps all working families," said Miguel Cordova, chair of Bargaining Unit 21. "We need strong laws that ensure that all workers – regardless of their national origin – are treated equally and fairly."

Dream becomes nightmare

The couple met in 2001 while chatting casually at the apartment complex where they both lived. Soon they began dating and were married in 2006. Juan had been living and working in the United States using fraudulent documents for nearly a decade.

"Once married, I told him that we needed to get him registered and legal so I wouldn't have to worry about him being deported," Vallejos said. "Everyone kept saying 'he is your husband it should be automatic,' but they were so wrong."

After years of bureaucratic delays, her husband was ordered in 2009 to report to a U.S. consulate in Juarez, Mexico, where he was told he could not reapply for residency for 10 years because he had been living in the country illegally. The couple has lived apart since then, keeping in touch by phone and video chat.

"No one respects our immigration laws because the system doesn't work," Vallejos said. "That's why we need legislation to fix it."

Join the fight for immigration reform

To learn more about SEIU's fight for immigration reform that benefits ALL workers, go to seiu1000.me/15XpWBi

To take action, go to seiu1000.me/12Q8eLO

To see why labor unions support immigration reform, go to seiu.org/immigration/



Resource Center

Monday-Friday
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